[Translation]

Chari Committee on "Issues in Coal"

6336. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations made by the Chari Committee regarding Issues in Coal and the action taken thereon;

(b) whether there is any proposal to modify its recommendations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NAYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c). Briefly, the salient findings/recommendations of the report "Issues in Coal" submitted by Shri K.S.R. Chari to the erswhile Advisory Board on Energy are:-

1. Though the coal production has increased, the objective of nationalisation cannot be said to have been fully achieved.

2. Massive investments in import of technology and equipment have not reduced cost of production.

3. Import of coking coal can and should be avoided by improving the performance of washeries and delinking the suspect sources of supply.

4. Quality base for statistical report should be in terms of standard coal.

5. Concept of OMS should include all inputs instead of manpower alone.

6. Undue emphasis on opencast mining should be avoided.

7. Grade wise price structure needs to be rationalised.

8. Exploration should be demand-based and not project-based for creating a shelf of projects from which a choice could be made based on least cost options.

9. Getting land, sand for stowing, adequate power, timely supply of equipment, delay in environmental clearance are some of the major problems.

10. In order to achieve the desired production level by 2000 AD, the projects need to be planed form today, considering the long gestation period.

11. Jharia Reconstruction project should include proper definition of scope for proper utilisation of coals from lower seams.

12. 'Decontrol' of coal has certain positive aspects that may commend its adoption.

13. Board of Directors of Coal India Limited needs to be re-organised and subsidiary companies should be freed from interference by holding company. Executives should be permitted extension till the age of 65 years.

As per procedure prescribed the Sub-Committee of the erstwhile Advisory Board on Energy considered the report and submitted its recommendation to the Special Committee of Secretaries. The recommendations/observations made by the Special Committee of Secretaries are kept in view in deciding connected policy issues.